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# Older Americans Act

## ABOUT ACL

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original legislation established authority for grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established the Administration on Aging (AoA) to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters concerning older persons.

Although older individuals may receive services under many other federal programs, today the OAA is considered to be a major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of service programs through a national network of 56 state agencies on aging, 618 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 281 Tribal organizations, and 1 Native Hawaiian organization representing 400 Tribes. The OAA also includes community service employment for low-income older Americans; training, research, and demonstration activities in the field of aging; and vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

The links below offer a compilation of the OAA, an outline of changes made to the OAA at the most recent reauthorization (2020) and other related sources of information/data.

## **2020 Reauthorization of the OAA**

The Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 reauthorizes programs for FY 2020 through FY 2024. It includes provisions that aim to remove barriers to the aging network increasing business acumen and capacity building, provide states and localities with the flexibility of deciding the allocation of National Family Caregiver Services between the populations served, and extends authorization of the RAISE Family Caregiver Act and the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act by one additional year.

[Read the compilation of the OAA of 1965, as amended through P.L. 116-131 \(3/25/2020\)](#)

## **2016 Reauthorization of the OAA**

The 2016 OAA Act reauthorizes programs for FY 2017 through FY 2019. It includes provisions that aim to protect vulnerable elders by strengthening the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and elder abuse screening and prevention efforts. It also promotes the delivery of evidence-based programs, such as falls prevention and chronic disease self-management programs.

[Read the official compilation of the OAA of 1965, as amended through P.L. 114-144 \(PDF, 903KB\).](#)

The 2016 law included a provision that required the Assistant Secretary for Aging to issue [guidance to states](#) (PDF, 358KB) about serving Holocaust survivors, including guidance on promising practices for conducting outreach to that population.

Read [ACL's overview of the key changes \(PDF, 48KB\)](#). This [FAQ \(PDF, 66KB\)](#) provides additional details.

## **2006 Reauthorization of the OAA**

ACL developed materials about the 2006 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. The FAQs provides guidance to the aging network.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Below is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) listed alphabetically by topic to assist the Aging Network with implementation of the 2006 Amendments to the Older Americans Act (OAA).


- + Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)**
- + Civic Engagement**
- + Elder Justice**
- + Evidence-Based Health Promotion Disease Prevention Programs**
- + Mental Health**
- + National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)**
- + Payer of Last Resort**
- + Private Pay**
- + Religious Activities**
- + Self Directed Care**
- + State Plans**
- + Targeting**
- + Transportation**

## **Historical Evolution of Programs for Older Americans**

- + See the Timeline of Programs for Older Americans**

## FILES

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 [CDC AoA Expanding Access to Vaccines FAQ-4-8-21.pdf](#)

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343.72 KB

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## OTHER ACL SITES

- [Eldercare Locator](#)
- [ElderJustice.acl.gov](#)
- [LongTermCare.gov](#)
- [OlderIndians.gov](#)

## RELATED SITES

- [Grants.gov](#)

- **HHS.gov**
- **No Fear Act (on HHS.gov)**
- **Plain Writing (on HHS.gov)**
- **USA.gov**
- **WhiteHouse.gov**

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